

CABINET OF BRITAIN BACKS CONSCRIPTION IN MODIFIED FORM

Decides to Present Bill, Giving
Government Necessary
Power, Next Week.

ALL MINISTERS FAIL
TO LEND SUPPORT

Strong Opposition Offered to Pro-
posed Scheme Forcing Unmar-
ried Men to War.

RESIGNATIONS ARE LIKELY

Premier Asquith Will Seek to Pre-
vent Split Which Would React
Against England's Best
Interests.

LONDON, December 29, 3:17 a.m.—The cabinet decision yesterday in favor of modified conscription, because known too late to be considered in the editorial comment of most of the morning papers. The conscriptionist newspapers naturally are pleased with the decision, while the opponents of the plan mostly content themselves with stating that no considered opinion can be ventured until the Earl of Derby's recruiting figures are known.

The Times says the precise scope of the proposed bill will be the subject for further discussion, and the cabinet's decision was largely due to the strong advocacy of the project by David Lloyd George, the minister of munitions, and some of his unionist colleagues.

Effect on Country.

The Times anticipates that there will be at least two cabinet resignations—Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, and Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade. The newspaper remarks that resignations of this effect are infectious. Concerning the effect of the project on the country, the Times says:

"Few persons ever advocated the principle of conscription for its own sake. It is a means, and would probably have been glad if the war could have been won without it. But the dominating desire of the country is to win the war, and if conscription is shown to be imperative we believe the nation will accept it in the same determined spirit. The need for men has become very urgent."

The Daily Chronicle, an anti-conscriptionist journal, admits that the country will accept conscription if it is proved to be necessary.

100,000 Not Invited.

The Manchester Guardian asserts that Lord Derby's canvass was done so hurriedly that at least 100,000 unmarried men were never invited to enroll. Moreover, it is maintained that there is necessarily enormous difficulty in analyzing the Derby figures, and a considerable portion of the slow moving English public opinion revolts at jumping hastily to conclusions, which would mean a change in the organic law of the country.

The supporters of the voluntary system are emphatic in declining to abandon it until some means have been taken to insure that the Derby scheme cannot be a success.

For Modified Conscription.

It is stated on excellent authority that the cabinet virtually decided upon a modified form of conscription bill, to be introduced in the house of commons next week, giving the government the necessary power, should it be found needful, to bring in single men and preserve Premier Asquith's pledge to married men.

Yesterday's cabinet meeting, although it failed to secure an agreement of all the ministers upon the vexed question of the voluntary system versus conscription, was of a very critical and decisive character, and virtually reached the decision that the application of conscription may become necessary before all eligible single men are effectually brought to the colors.

Therefore, it was resolved that at the earliest opportunity a bill should be introduced in parliament in order that the government might have the necessary power, should it be found that no other course was effective to this end.

Will Make Statement.

Premier Asquith is expected to make a statement on the whole question in the house of commons Wednesday or Thursday of next week, and announce the speedy introduction of a bill of a permissive character, making service in the army obligatory on unmarried men who have failed to attest under the Derby scheme.

The anti-conscriptionist ministers offered strong opposition, and it is still unknown whether any resignations will follow. It is believed, however, that this is quite likely now.

Policy Adopted.

The line of policy upon which a majority of the ministers agree, indicating that some, at least, of the anti-conscriptionist section of the cabinet so far waived their principle as to consent to a modified application of force, is as follows:

First, that the premier's pledge to married men is binding on the whole government.

Second, that the pledge should be redeemed forthwith.

Third, that the principle of conscription should be accepted.

Fourth, that the premier should announce this policy at the earliest opportunity after the reassembling of parliament.

It is believed that the actual formal resolution on the new policy has been postponed until another meeting of the cabinet, and that in the short interval Mr. Asquith will be employed in asserting the strongest influence to avert disruption of his cabinet.

United Front Important.

The importance, as far as military operations and political prestige are concerned, of the ministers presenting a united front to the nation and her allies, to any nothing of the effect produced by disruption in encouraging the enemy, is fully grasped, and this influence cannot fail to have its effect.

There is a further possibility to be considered. This is that the announcement of an immediate application of conscription would have such an immediate effect upon the laggard that it may never become necessary to put the measure in operation.

Chance to Preserve Unity.

Should the week intervening before the introduction of the bill show such a sudden rush of recruiting as to justify the hope that it would be unnecessary to resort to conscription there will be a great chance for the cabinet to preserve its unity. Premier Asquith has always shown a marvellous faculty in holding his cabinet to-

gether and it would not be surprising to find that the mere threat of conscription would have the effect of dispersing all of the government's difficulties in this respect.

Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer; Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, and the labor minister, Arthur Henderson, are regarded as the most likely to resign. Other known opponents of conscription are Louis Harcourt, Sir John A. Simon, Thomas McKinnon Wood and Sir Stanley O. Buckmaster.

May Be Few Resignations.

The fact that Premier Asquith has been able to make the momentous announcement that in his opinion the time had arrived when steps should be taken to prepare for conscription, however, must have had such an enormous effect upon the most determined of the supporters of the voluntary plan that it is believed there will, at the most, only be a few resignations.

In the house of commons the bill is almost certain to meet a decided opposition from the Irish and labor members. The Irish opposition is so passionate that there might be rumors that Ireland will be deliberately excluded from the operations of the contemplated bill.

THOUSAND BILLS DEAL WITH U. S. RESOURCES

National Conservation Congress Issues
Statement on Measures
Before Congress.

The National Conservation Congress estimates that of the 9,000 bills introduced in the Senate and House since the opening of the present session, a very large number, possibly 1,000, have to do with conservation or the disposal or regulation of the natural resources of the United States.

"Of this number," says a statement issued by the conservation congress, "it is probable that not more than half a dozen will receive serious consideration by the committees."

The bills representing the administration's so-called conservation program have been urged upon Congress by the President.

Administration Measures.

So far as they have been introduced they are as follows:

The bill for the development of water powers in the national forests and the public lands; the bill for the development of water powers on navigable streams, known as the general dam bill; the bill for the development of the grazing bill, and the grazing homestead bill.

The first named water power bill has been put in by Representative Scott Ferris of Oklahoma and has been referred to the House committee on public lands; in the Senate a somewhat similar bill has been introduced by Senator Henry L. Myers of Montana and referred to the Senate committee on public lands.

Two Dam Bills Pending.

The general dam bill was introduced in the House by Chairman Adamson of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce, to which committee it was referred; and a somewhat similar measure in the Senate by Senator J. E. Shields of Tennessee and referred to the committee on commerce, of which Senator J. P. Clarke of Arkansas is chairman.

The general development or leasing bill was put in by Representative Ferris and Senator Walsh of Montana, and referred to the public lands committee of both houses. The grazing homestead bill was introduced by Representative Ferris and Senator Sterling of South Dakota and referred also to the public lands committee of both houses.

NEED OF BUILDING FOR THE ARCHIVES

U. S. Government Declared to
Have Wholly Inadequate
Means of Storing Records.

ADDRESS BY LEO F. STOCK
AT MEETING OF SOCIETIES

Appeal to Congress for an Appro-
priation—Gaillard Hunt Discusses
Value of Public Documents.

The wholly inadequate means of storing and safeguarding the records of the national government were shown by Leo F. Stock of the Carnegie Institution at the joint meeting of the American Historical Association and other national associations at Memorial Continental Hall yesterday afternoon. His address was illustrated with lantern slides.

The cause of the proposed national hall of archives in Washington received impetus from this meeting, it was said today, and every effort will be made to have Congress at the present session to appropriate money for the building. Already tentative plans for the proposed structure are being made by the architects of the Treasury Department under authority of law.

Louis A. Simon, superintendent of the drafting division in the office of the supervising architect of the Treasury, showed pictures of the plans for the building. Mr. Stock told the assembled his-

torians that lack of concentration is one of the greatest evils in connection with the archives of the government. The archive depositaries in Washington number about eighty.

Mr. Stock's Address.

He said: "The expansion of the business of the government has greatly changed its departmental methods and organizations; new bureaus have been created, old ones reorganized, their functions divided and subdivided. As a result, documents have been lost in the process of their transfer from one department to another, correlative papers have become widely separated, and the quarters themselves have become too congested to find place in their proper departments for the ever-increasing records."

"They are stored wherever space can be spared for them—on floors, in cellars, attics, furnace rooms, corridors and doorways, or they are removed altogether from the departments and stored in unsightly, unsafe, inaccessible rented buildings at an annual cost of rentals to the government of over \$100,000."

"The files of the Treasury Department are scattered throughout ten buildings; the Department of Agriculture has fourteen depositaries of its papers; the State Department two within its own building and one outside; the War Department, 11; Navy Department, 7; Department of Commerce, 5; of Justice, 6; of Labor, 2; of the Interior, 9; interior commerce, 2, not to mention the files of other bureaus and commissions less scattered."

"From the government's point of view, since they represent all its financial transactions, the most valuable records are those of the Treasury."

All Liable to Losses.

"Practically all of these records are liable to loss in one way or another. In the attic of the Treasury are miles of wooden shelving packed with papers, and built around a substructure of the fountain on the north side are chambers containing 8,000 square feet of files. Artificial light must be used, and while the attempt was made to make this repository dry and safe by cement construction, it was not a success. Not so long ago water was standing on the floor of this subterranean room and dripping from ceiling and walls to such an extent that extra heat was turned on to dry the vault. As a result some of the records became so brittle that they fell apart when handled."

"A few years ago a claim was pre-

sented involving about \$134,000 that antedated the year 1820. While the papers proving that the claim had been paid were found, after a long search, it would seem to even the most careless business concern that receipts and contracts upon which so much depends should be more carefully safeguarded."

Gaillard Hunt on Value of Archives.

Gaillard Hunt of the Library of Congress spoke on the value of archives in administration. He said that the records of the government were of great value as showing precedents to aid in rulings in matters of all kinds that come before the departments. Yet, he said, because these records are not available, new administrative officers of the government work for days over problems which have been solved by their predecessors. He insisted that by the construction of an adequate archives building, where these records could be reached easily, the time of officials would be saved and money would be saved to the government.

"Imagine a court handling a decision today and destroying the decision and all records of it tomorrow," said Mr. Hunt, "that is what is going on in effect in the departments right along."

Summary of Replies.

In a summary of the replies from shipbuilders the chamber of commerce says that one leading New England plant which has a construction capacity of \$10,000,000 a year has work on hand for fifteen months, of which one-half is for merchant tonnage and the other half government work. Another New England plant, with a capacity of \$1,500,000 has twelve months' work on its books.

In the Delaware and Chesapeake sec-

SHIPBUILDERS WORKING AT THEIR FULL CAPACITY

Announced, However, They Can In-
crease Their Output From
15 to 60 Per Cent.

NEW YORK, December 29.—Shipbuilding plants in the United States are working to full capacity, but can increase their output from 15 to 60 per cent within a year, according to information obtained by the New York Chamber of Commerce through a canvass of the leading shipyards of the country. The replies show that the tonnage under construction or order at present is double that of any year in the last ten. According to one prominent shipbuilder the amount of ocean-going merchant tonnage now building in the United States for American registry has increased tenfold since July 1, 1914.

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In the Delaware and Chesapeake sec-

tions fully 100 vessels of various kinds, including a larger proportion of ocean-going craft than usual, are being constructed. On the Delaware river eighty-two vessels are being built, with an aggregate of 358,000 tons, valued at \$58,000,000.

Advantages of Interior Shipyards.

"There is no doubt that from the experience with interior river shipyards have had in the construction of steel vessels for the government," says the report, "it would be entirely

A silver coin is usually in currency for about twenty-seven years.

"The New Alaska"

A Series of Letters
By Frank G. Carpenter

BEGINNING with the first Sunday in January, The Sunday Star will publish a series of letters on THE NEW ALASKA. These letters will describe the country as it is today on the eve of its rapid development by our government and people. They will picture the great territory that is soon to be opened up by the new railroads Uncle Sam is now building, and will give the latest information about a region that will be discussed in Congress this session. The letters will be written by FRANK G. CARPENTER, who has spent most of the past year in gathering the material and visiting every accessible part of the territory.

Mr. Carpenter went to Alaska shortly after the breaking-up of the ice last spring. He sailed from island to island through the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country, and visited much of the coast line, which, all told, is longer than the distance around the world. He crossed the Alaska range over the White Pass railway into the Yukon valley, and traveled several thousand miles on the Yukon and its tributaries. From the mouth of the Yukon he went to St. Michael and the Seward peninsula, and from there crossed Bering sea to the Aleutian Islands, the great archipelago that extends from our continent almost to Asia. He has also gathered material about the Eskimos and the icy regions of the Arctic ocean.

A large part of Mr. Carpenter's trip was devoted to the lands to be opened up by the new government railway. That road is now building. It will be almost 500 miles long, and will throw open to settlement some of the richest of the farming lands of Alaska. It will tap the great coal mines of the Matanuska valley and will connect Seward, on Prince William sound, with the 6,000 miles of navigable waters which are furnished by the Yukon and its tributaries. The terminus of the new road is to be at Fairbanks, in the heart of central Alaska, a city which Mr. Carpenter has visited, and which will be described.



FRANK G. CARPENTER.

During his trip Mr. Carpenter went from Seward across the Kenai peninsula, which is to be traversed by the railroad. His travels there were largely on foot and on horseback, part of the way being through grass of the height of a man's waist. Mr. Carpenter says the peninsula is half the size of Indiana, and that it will some day be covered with farms.

Many of Mr. Carpenter's letters will be of interest to money-makers, investors and young men who are looking for places to settle and for new worlds to conquer. He will picture the farming regions of Alaska and show the advantages and disadvantages which they offer to homesteaders. He will also describe the gold camps and give many stories of fortune-making, past and present, connected with them. He will treat of the great copper deposits, some of which are now producing millions of dollars per annum, and of the coal lands that are open to the prospector and the investor.

He will also tell you about the fishing industry, that has yielded hundreds of millions of dollars, and is as yet in its beginning. In this connection he will show that Alaska is now furnishing a large part of the fresh fish used in the United States. The fish are put upon ice as soon as they come from the sea and carried in ice cold-storage ships and cars until they reach our breakfast tables.

Among the most interesting of Mr. Carpenter's letters will be those relating to the people of Alaska, showing how they live and work in the land of Arctic winters and the midnight sun. Mr. Carpenter will also introduce you to the scenic wonders of Alaska, which, when the new railroads are finished, will make that country the summer playground of the United States.

For this work there are few men better fitted than Frank G. Carpenter. For more than thirty years he has been traveling over the globe and writing about it for the American people. He needs no introduction, for the accuracy of his statements and his plain, simple, graphic descriptions are known to all. As one of his admirers has said, "Reading Carpenter is seeing the world."

Watch for the first article in this series next Sunday in the Special Features Section of

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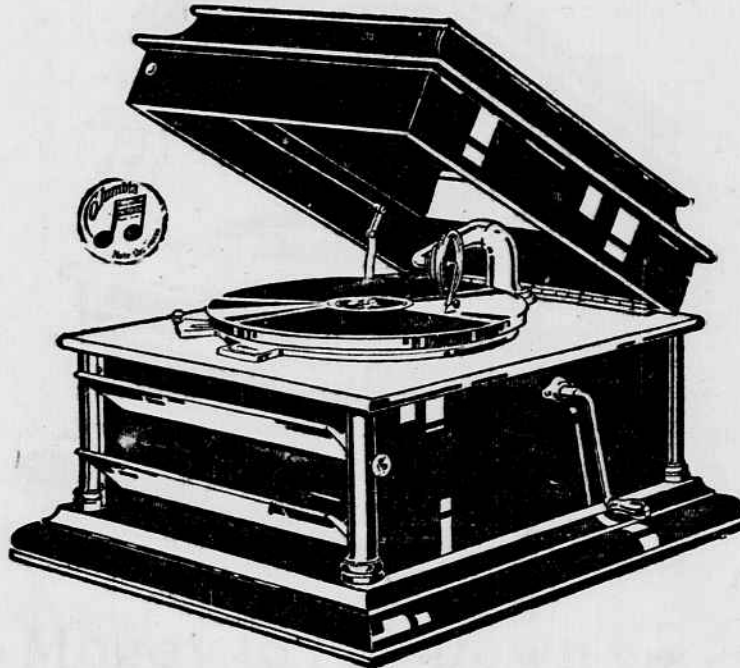
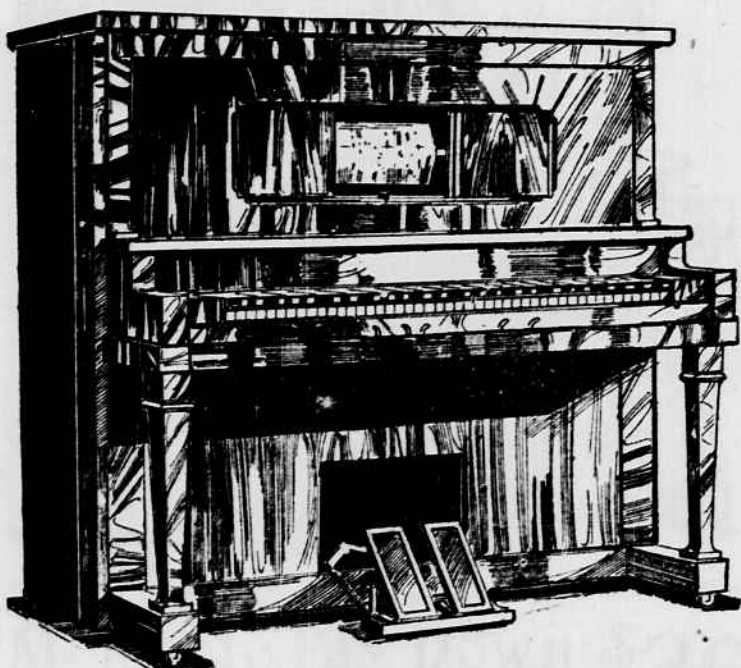
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- Pique Dame.
- Sooner or Later.
- Ellen From Old Kil-larney.
- You'll Always Be the Same Sweet Girl.
- All I Can Do Is Just Love You.
- Where's the Girl For Me?

The Sunday Star